

A C H I E V E

Offering Every Kid Success

Christopher House has been helping children and families succeed for more than 100 years. Today, Christopher House's family of schools prepares at-risk children and their families for success in school, the workplace, and life.

Our continuum of high-quality schools serves children from birth through high school, and includes programs that help parents create stable, self-sufficient families. Working in partnership with parents, we provide a rich academic environment that also builds qualities that make the difference later in life: self-confidence, social skills, and perseverance.

A Letter from Our CEO

This summer I attended a week long course at the Stanford University Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. The experience of being at the table with more than 60 fellow non-profit leaders from around the world was so inspiring. It was extraordinary to hear about the work they are doing for their communities and reignited my passion for what we accomplish at Christopher House.

Despite the uncertain funding and politics in the past few years, our mission and vision have led us through and we are seeing incredible results. Our continuum of education, personalized learning, and wraparound support to children and families is leading to success. You'll learn about these results in the next few pages, read stories of how our staff works to make these gains; and understand the real impact Christopher House is having on our families.

Additionally, you will find the organizations and people who made these gains possible – our donor list from this past year. It's investors like you that allow Christopher House to fulfill our mission and vision. Your support gave thousands of children and their families a chance at success last year and changed their trajectory for many years to come.

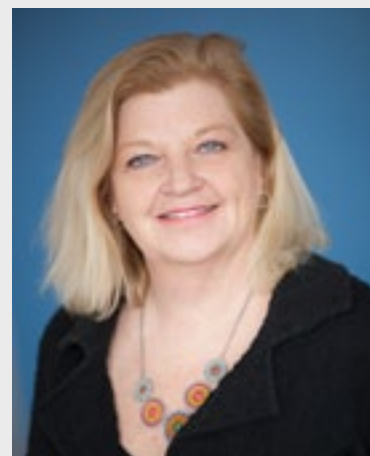
The impact Christopher House has, in partnership with children and families, goes far beyond the classroom. The social/emotional growth and resilience we instill in our scholars will carry them through success in school, work, and life. As research proves again and again, low-income, at-risk children with access to high-quality education have more successful, happier lives – which has a huge return on investment for all of us.

Gratefully,



Lori Baas
Chief Executive Officer

September 2017



OUR VALUES

- ★ Commitment to Excellence
- ★ Achievement and Perseverance
- ★ Respect and Compassion
- ★ Equality of Opportunity

OUR BELIEFS

Children and families thrive when:

- ★ They have access to a high-quality education
- ★ Education begins at birth, with parents as the first teacher, and continues through life
- ★ Parents have high standards and set high expectations for their children and themselves
- ★ Professionally trained teachers use strength-based instruction and know their students as individuals
- ★ Parents support their children financially and emotionally
- ★ Evaluations and program adjustments are data driven
- ★ Education includes developing perseverance and social intelligence
- ★ Parents and teachers work together to continuously improve programs

“It was an incredible year for Christopher House. Both, students and teachers, preformed above their target and most above national norms - we are very proud and very excited to continue this work in the coming year!”

**-Karen Ross-Williams,
Director of Early Childhood Education and Youth Development**



Closing the Gap

99%

4th grade reading national growth percentile*

1,540

Hungry children and their families were provided emergency food

79%

3rd graders met or exceeded the national norm in reading*

80%

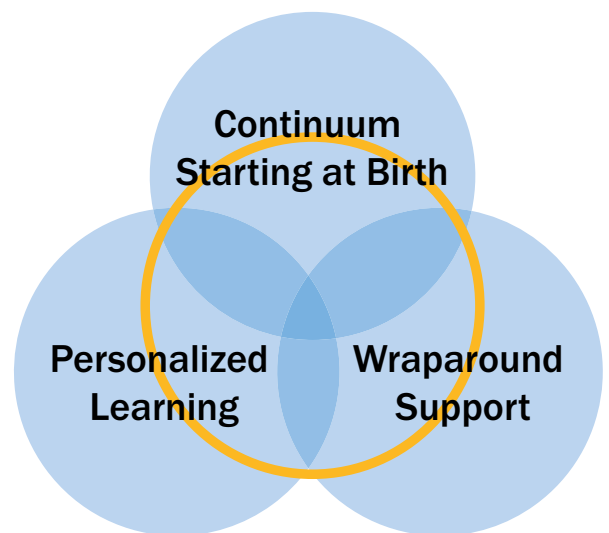
Early childhood students prepared for kindergarten**

84%

After School students improved their GPA or maintained a B average

100%

on 7/10 metrics evaluated by National Association for the Education of the Young Child***



Christopher House closes the opportunity gap through a continuum of personalized education with wraparound support starting at birth.

* NWEA Assessment Spring 2017
** Kindergarten Readiness Matrix® 2017
*** Uptown campus accreditation renewal 2017

Family of Schools



INFANT & PRESCHOOL

Internationally renowned, full-day early childhood schools serve children from six weeks to five years old. Our schools advance literacy, motor skills, positive social behavior, cognitive development, math skills, and long-term success.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

An innovative school model offering a continuum of education for children kindergarten through eighth grade. The school's rigorous college prep curriculum develops critical thinkers who will succeed in high school, college, and beyond.



AFTER SCHOOL

Promotes academic achievement, self-confidence, and positive decision-making skills for children and youth. We offer tutoring, enrichment activities, field trips, college and career prep, and more.



PARENT SCHOOL

Fosters the skills parents need to raise happy, healthy children. Our Teen and Adult Parent and Prenatal School prepares parents for birth, and educates parents to be a child's "first teacher." The school creates a strong support system for parents with social workers, food pantries, and emergency financial assistance.

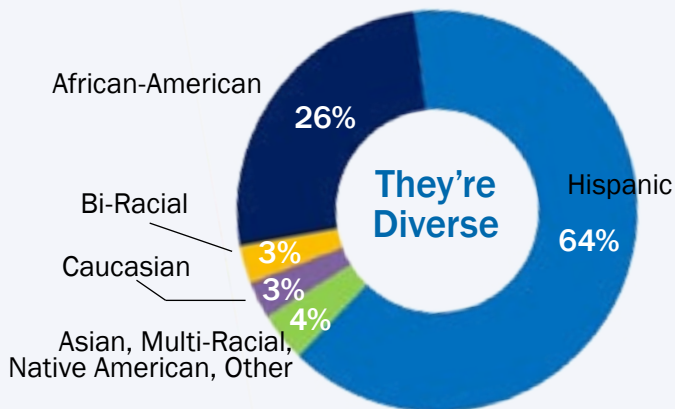


"My hope for Louis* is that he follows his dreams and believes in himself. I want him to go to college and be the most respectful human being there is."
 - Parent, Christopher House, Stewart Campus

* Names changed to protect family identities.

Our Families

Christopher House serves low-income children and families in Belmont Cragin, Logan Square, and Uptown.



FY 2017 Student Demographics

70%

Early childhood families are run by single parents

79%

Parents working and/or in school

51%

Elementary students are English Language Learners

81%

Family caregivers have a high school diploma or less

UNDER \$19,000
Average Annual Household Income

Thank You to Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 Annual Fund

Classroom Circle

\$50,000+

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Anonymous
The Boeing Company
CME Group Foundation
The Crown Family
Ellis Goodman Family Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Presbytery of Chicago
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Family Circle

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Teacher Circle

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Mentor Circle

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Christopher House Auxiliary
Shawn and Sang Ellis
Mia and Mark Furlong
Robin Steans and Leonard Gail
Holland & Knight
Glenn Horton

It is our pleasure to recognize the generosity of all the institutions and individuals that make our work possible.



Laura Ricketts, Cubs Charities, and Christopher House Board of Directors Chair, Tom O'Neill having some championship fun at the April Benefit.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Johnson
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Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Thank You to Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Student Circle \$1,000 - \$2,499 (Cont.)

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Sally and Tom Hilgendorf
Andrew and Laurie Hochberg
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Janene and Joe Jonas
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David Neighbours
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Kevin Noonan
Novas, Dohr and Coll OB/GYN Associates
The Honorable Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama
Allyson Pafias

Dr. Roshan P. Parikh and Elizabeth Haus
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Mary and Robert Womsley
The XCEL Group
Mr. Joe Zitomer
Ed and Patricia Zurek



Stu Reed, Christopher House Board Member, and wife Tatum at the Four Seasons for our 27th Annual Benefit.

\$500 - \$999

ADP Automatic Data Processing
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James Althoff
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Apple Inc.
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Vienna Beef
Andrew Bennett
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Betsy Weitzman and Doug Nelson
Dr. Jeanne Novas-Busano
Oakley Stevens
The Honorable Sheila O'Brien Dimas Ocampo



Clark the Cub at our 27th Annual Benefit at the Four Seasons in April 2017.



Working Together

Collaboration is crucial to Christopher House's ability to help our children and families succeed. Teachers work with other teachers, parents, and organizations in the Chicago Benchmarking Collaboration — all to track success and increase impact, so each family can reach their goals.

In Christopher House classrooms, teachers believe parents are the child's first teacher and give them the tools and education to continue their children's learning at home. Additionally, teachers communicate with each other. Lauren Harrington, Emergent Learning Coordinator and Kindergarten Teacher, said on the collaboration, "Kinder teachers and Early Childhood teachers take turns observing one another and

then meet afterward to discuss strengths, areas for support, and ways to bring consistency and fluidity between programs."

Outside our classrooms, the Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative (CBC) allows seven agencies to share practices to provide the best services for the nearly 12,000 people served by the organizations.

With Christopher House as project manager, the CBC meets throughout the year to track indicators and outcomes set at the start of the year. This joint collaboration allows agencies to compare approaches and results. Having "apples to apples" comparisons gives teachers and administrators the ability to make data-informed decisions on

how to best increase the member agencies' ability to positively impact the lives of those served.

All of these methods of working together lead to better practices and better results for our children and families in need.

The Chicago Benchmarking Collaborative is an alliance of seven education and human service agencies whose mission is to drive meaningful and tangible change for Chicago's at-risk populations. Learn more at christopherhouse.org/cbc.



Thank You Holland & Knight

We could not be happier having the Holland & Knight Chicago office partner with Christopher House to share their time, talents, and resources! Aside from donating countless hours of pro bono legal work, the team volunteers, tutors, mentors, and supports drives throughout the year giving school supplies, books, and diapers.

This past year, Holland & Knight asked how to be even more involved. “Christopher House’s mission speaks to all of us at Holland & Knight, because we are committed to leveling the academic playing field for at-risk children, and ensuring they have access to the same high-quality academic resources that we all enjoyed as lawyers,” said Partner, and member of Christopher House Board of Directors, Tom Woodrow.

Understanding that mentoring and tutoring would be one of the most direct ways they could impact our scholars, lawyers from Holland & Knight and Christopher House staff established a program. They meet twice a month with students to work on reading and math skills. Tom said on the experience, “Ironically, we as mentors learned as much from the scholars as they did from us!”

In addition to being positive role models for our scholars, the office hosted a fundraiser for the spring Read-A-Thon collecting over 150 books and \$1,000, and this August collected over \$2,500 in back to school supplies!

A big thanks to Holland and Knight for your involvement, your support, and for being such a committed investor in Christopher House children and families!



2017 Holland & Knight Mentors and Mentees.

“Christopher House’s mission speaks to all of us at Holland & Knight, because we are committed to leveling the academic playing field for at-risk children, and ensuring they have access to the same high-quality academic resources that we all enjoyed as lawyers.”

– Tom Woodrow, Partner, Holland & Knight, Member Christopher House Board of Directors

Thank You to Our Donors

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

\$500 - \$999 (Cont.)

Caroline O'Connor
Maura and Paul O'Connor
Karen Otto
Aaron and Kelli Pauker
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Colleen Washburn
Jim and Nancy Weber
Mrs. Traci and Mr. Ron Weber
Julie Womack
Shep and Sally Young

Please see
christopherhouse.org
for the full donor listing!

Become an Investor in Success Today

Each gift has the opportunity to create a profound impact on the thousands of children and their families that Christopher House partners with annually.

Here are some of the ways you can give:

**DONATE ONLINE • DONATE BY MAIL • BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR
DONATE DIAPERS • INCLUDE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE IN YOUR WILL
MAKE CHRISTOPHER HOUSE YOUR IRA BENEFICIARY • SEND GIFTS OF STOCK**

For more information, please contact our Associate Director of Individual Giving, Kathy Greenberg at kgreenberg@christopherhouse.org or at 773-922-7584.



Gilbert Juarez (Center) 2017 Northwestern University Graduate, 27th Annual Benefit Alumnus Speaker with father, Mario Juarez and mother, Anna Falcon.

Diapers to Diplomas

You can help our littlest learners reach their full potential by joining Diapers to Diplomas to provide essentials for our 120 infants and toddlers.

We are in need of:

- Diapers - sizes 2-5
- Pull-Ups - sizes 2T-5T
- Baby Wipes
- Enfamil Formula



How can you help?

- Donate these items today! Bring to our James & Jean Stewart Campus or our Logan Square Center.
- Throw a baby shower or host a diaper drive!
- Sponsor a child. For less than a dollar a day, you can ensure a child has clean diapers while in school.

Visit
christopherhouse.org/d2d
and sign up today!



Get Involved

Join us for one of our events throughout the year! There are many ways to be a part of our work and directly impact children and families in need.

Here are just a few upcoming opportunities!



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE FAMILY TO FAMILY

November & December

Holidays are a time of family, food, and generosity. Help our families enjoy a special day of hope. Collect fresh food for special Thanksgiving meals or be paired with a family - or multiple families - to help give families in need a joyful holiday season.

Visit christopherhouse.org for more information and to sign up for Family-to-Family this fall!



READ-A-THON 2018

February & March

Join us to celebrate the love of reading with our scholars! The Read-A-Thon, opens their imagination, sparks creativity, and builds vocabulary and literacy skills. Volunteer to share your favorite childhood book, and collect donations to help create more robust classroom libraries.

Details at christopherhouse.org!



28TH ANNUAL BENEFIT

April 26, 2018

Save the date to join us for our largest fundraiser of the year! Last year, we honored Cubs Charities and the Bretz Family; enjoyed a performance by the Elementary Choir; and welcomed Christopher House alumnus and Northwestern University Graduate, Gilbert Juarez, as a featured speaker!

Sign up at christopherhouse.org to receive all the updates and to purchase tickets.

“I want Gabe* to learn new things. I want him to explore different cultures and diversities. I want him to challenge himself.”

-Parent, Christopher House, Uptown

* Names changed to protect family identities.





Success from Support

Personalized learning succeeds when teachers know their scholars and adapt to their needs. This approach is part of the education that all Christopher House scholars receive. At our Elementary School, one aspect of this is an intense and lengthy process called multi-tiered support system (MTSS) or intervention.

MTSS is a three -tiered approach to working with a scholar in need of extra support in six-week time frames: either in the classroom, in small groups, or individually. The three levels allows the school and parents to see if there are other ways a child learns that can be adapted in the classroom, outside of placing the scholar on an individualized education plan (IEP).

On average, schools only provide this extra support - if they provide it at all - to the lowest scoring 20%. Christopher House doesn't make this cut off. "We have a lot of high risk kids who need more support," said Shay Stein, Student Support Specialist, and the person at Christopher House Elementary School who is dedicated to implementing these strategies.

For our scholars, coming from more challenging backgrounds this extra help and guidance can lead to discovering how to manage diverse learning opportunities that can last for the remainder of their educational career, and can mean going from failing to thriving.

"This is just one of the ways we work to close the achievement gap," said Shay. "We provide extra support for all students who need it — to level the playing field with kids who have more resources in wealthier neighborhoods."

This process is different for every student and represents our commitment to personalizing learning for our scholars. Giving them a better chance to overcome the achievement gap and reach their full potential.

"This is one of the ways we work to close the achievement gap. We provide extra support for all students who need it — to level the playing field with kids who have more resources in wealthier neighborhoods."

-Shay Stein, Student Support Specialist

**If I didn't find Christopher House
I don't know where I would be.
Christopher House changed my life.**

**-Esther, Parent,
Early Childhood & After School**

**You can help a family get on track
for a better life today.**

DONATE DIAPERS

Bring or send donations M-F 8am-5:30pm to
our Logan Square site at 3255 W. Altgeld St. 60647
or our James & Jean Stewart Campus at 5235 W. Belden Ave. 60639

SPONSOR A CHILD BY BECOMING A MONTHLY MEMBER!

You can provide the extra push a child or parent needs to build grit,
reach their goals, and break the cycle of poverty.

VISIT CHRISTOPHER HOUSE.ORG

Learn how you can join the mission to help families thrive.

